

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising the steps of:
2 determining an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email message; and
3 initiating an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to
4 determining that the contact is present.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of initiating the IM chat session
2 comprises the steps of:
3 generating an IM chat window;
4 obtaining information from the email message; and
5 displaying the obtained information in the generated IM chat window.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining information from the
2 email message comprises the step of:
3 obtaining a subject of the email message.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of displaying the obtained
2 information comprises the step of:
3 displaying the subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of displaying the subject of the
2 email message comprises the step of:
3 providing the subject of the email message as an IM chat message.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining information from the
2 email message comprises the step of:

3 obtaining a body of the email message.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of displaying the obtained
2 information comprises the step of:

3 displaying the body of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of displaying the body of the
2 email message comprises the step of:

3 providing the body of the email message as an IM chat message.

1 9. A system comprising:

2 means for determining an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email
3 message; and

4 means for initiating an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in
5 response to determining that the contact is present.

1 10. A system comprising:

2 presence logic configured to determine an Internet presence of a contact identified
3 in an email message; and

4 chat-initiation logic configured to initiate an instant messaging (IM) chat session
5 with the contact in response to determine that the contact is present.

1 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, further comprising:
2 chat-window-generation logic configured to generate an IM chat window;
3 information-retrieval logic configured to obtain information from the email
4 message; and
5 display logic configured to display the obtained information in the generated IM
6 chat window.

1 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising:
2 subject-retrieval logic configured to obtain a subject of the email message.

1 13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, further comprising:
2 subject-display logic configured to display the subject of the email message in the
3 generated IM chat window.

1 14. A computer-readable medium comprising:
2 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine
3 an Internet presence of a contact from an email message; and
4 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to initiate an
5 instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determine that the
6 contact is present.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:
2 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to generate an
3 IM chat window;
4 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain
5 information from the email message; and
6 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the
7 obtained information in the generated IM chat window.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising:
2 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain a
3 subject of the email message.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising:
2 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the
3 subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, further comprising:
2 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide the
3 subject of the email message as an IM chat message.

1 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising:
2 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain a
3 body of the email message.

1 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:
2 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the
3 body of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

1 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further comprising:
2 computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide the
3 body of the email message as an IM chat message.